



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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September 15, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas L. Garthwaite", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **GRADE POSTING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH FACILITIES**

On July 15, 2003, the Board approved a motion instructing the Department of Health Services, in consultation with County Counsel, to evaluate the fiscal and legal implications of establishing a grading posting system for community clinics, nursing homes and other health facilities, similar to that used by the County for grading restaurants, including such issues as jurisdiction, financing, and potential liability to the county, and report back to the Board within 60 days.

County Counsel is preparing a legal analysis for the Board and the Department of the jurisdiction of the County in this matter and has indicated that the analysis should be completed soon. Since the design of any program will depend substantially on the legal analysis, we propose to review that analysis and then provide the Board with a report on the programmatic, operational and fiscal implications. We will provide that analysis within 30 days of receiving the legal analysis. Whatever program is proposed will emphasize the provision of greater useful information for consumers and potential consumers of health services.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:ma
307:016

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors